

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2001-25

April 10, 2001

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY,
Request for Waiver of Chapter 870,
Section 3

ORDER APPROVING
REQUEST FOR WAIVER

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

SUMMARY OF ORDER

This Order approves the Request for Waiver of Chapter 870, Section 3 submitted by Central Maine Power Company (CMP) to increase the fee for checks returned by a bank for nonpayment from \$5 to \$12 per account to which the check is applied.

BACKGROUND

On January 9, 2001, CMP filed a request for waiver of Chapter 870, Section 3 of the Commission's Rules. CMP proposed increasing the fee for checks returned by a bank for nonpayment from \$5 to \$15 per account to which the check is applied.

The purpose of Chapter 870, Section 3 is to recover the costs associated with processing bad checks. Chapter 870 was last modified in 1995. The \$5 returned check fee is no longer sufficient to recover the costs associated with processing a returned check. Pursuant to a request by Commission staff, CMP indicated that its cost for processing a returned check is \$11.31. This includes the cost of making adjustments to the customer's account, sending the check back to the customer, reconciling the bank statements, and a \$2 bank charge. CMP subsequently agreed to reduce the waiver request from \$15 to \$12.

We therefore authorize CMP to file terms and conditions that increase the fee for checks returned by a bank for nonpayment to \$12.

Accordingly, we

O R D E R

1. That the Request for Waiver of Chapter 870, Section 3 submitted by Central Maine Power Company (CMP) to increase the fee for checks returned by a bank for nonpayment from \$5 to \$12 per account to which the check is applied is approved.

2. CMP must submit a term and condition as required by Chapter 870, Section 3 for approval by the Director of the Consumer Assistance Division.
3. That the increased fee will be effective for checks returned by the bank on and after the date that the term and condition is approved.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 10th day of April, 2001.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Nugent
 Diamond

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Welch

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.